

**British Society for Rheumatology (BSR)
Statement on Adalimumab for Ankylosing Spondylitis**

It was announced on 6 June 2006 that adalimumab (Humira) has been licensed for the treatment of Ankylosing Spondylitis (AS). This adds to the choice of anti-TNF- α drugs available to treat patients with AS.

The BSR recently published guidelines on the use of anti-TNF- α treatment for AS which did not include advice on the use of adalimumab as the treatment had not been licensed. The forthcoming appraisal from NICE will, however, include advice on adalimumab.

The BSR has therefore decided that it would be appropriate to offer guidance on the use of adalimumab as it has with other anti-TNF- α drugs. We believe that there is clear evidence to support the use of adalimumab as a treatment for adult patients with active AS, who have had an inadequate response to non-steroidal anti-inflammatory drugs and conform to the current BSR guideline for the use of anti-TNF- α drugs in AS. Whilst there have not been any direct comparisons between anti-TNF- α drugs in AS, adalimumab appears to be as effective as other licensed agents.

BSR
August 2006